commercial relations, they go and meet their counterparts in various international conferences and find how regional co-operation within the multi-lateral framework is emerging and how they are benefited they recognise the need of it. They will aslo find the tremendous potential which we are having here.

I think, somebody in 1995 asked me how countries like Bhutan are having higher exports. Bhutan's import was Rs. 58 crores and export was Rs. 107 crores with India. Most respectfully I had to remind him that of the Rs. 107 crores imports, Rs. 97 crores was for the power purchase. We have established a power plant there and as per the agreement they are selling power to us. It is not only that they are exporting power, in fact, they are helping us to overcome our own power crisis. I want more such power plants to be built in Bhutan, in Nepal and in Bangladesh. We should buy it so that we help them to expand their exports to India. They can also earn more foreign exchange from us and at the same time, we can improve our deficiencies in certain sectors. This is the type of approach we require and Pakistan is an important player in the whole scenario. In the morning somebody referred to China...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA): Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, I would like to interrupt you for a minute. The Railway Minister has to lay a copy of the Railway Budget. Kindly take your seat.

THE BUDGET (RAILWAYS) 1997-98

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table a statement (in English and Hindi) of the estimated receipts and expenditure of the Government of India for the year 1997-98, in respect of Railways.

SHRI V NARAYANASAMY (Pondicherry): Madam, is it the Railway Budget of Bihar and Karnataka? We read the Budget. I am very sorry to say that the Railway Minister started various schemes in Bihar, but he has not given anything to other States. It has become a Bihar Budget...*(Interruptions)*...

श्रीमती उर्मिला चिमनभाई पटेल: गुजरात, मध्यम प्रदेश और अन्य राज्यों को इग्नोर किया गया है।... (व्यवधान)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA): Don't waste time. Kindly take your seat.

Motion of Thanks on the President's Address—contd.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Surely we will have some time to discuss the Railway Budget.

I was trying to point out why we require to take initiatives to improve our relationship with China or Pakistan. I am not making any comparison. I do not believe in competitive expenditure on defence. I do not believe in it The security concern does not necessarily depend on how much you spend on defence. It rather depends on what type of relationship you have built up. Some of the countries have strengthened their defence purely on this. I am not recommending that we should be under the protection of somebody. But at the same time we cannot go on competing with each other on defence expenditure. What has happened with regard to China? During the last visit of the Chinese Prime Minister to India, we agreed on the reduction of forces on border areas. I think this was the correct step that was taken and it was in conformity with a step we took after signing the 1993 agreement for maintaining peace and tranquillity in the border areas. As a result of this we have been able to open up three important trade routes which were suspended from 1959 onwards. Lepu leh and Shipke la and one more route is going to be